

December 8, 1940

# THE SPIRIT





AUTUMN HAS GIVEN WAY TO WINTER... A COLD RAIN THAT POURS STEADILY FROM A MIDNIGHT SKY TURNS THE CROOKED ROAD LEADING UP MYSTERY MOUNTAIN INTO A WINDING RIBBON OF MUD..... AIDED BY ITS POWERFUL HEADLIGHTS WHICH PICK OUT EVERY TREACHEROUS TURN, **THE SPIRIT'S AUTOPLANE** PLOWS UP THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE TOWARD THE SUMMIT WHERE A SOLITARY HOUSE STANDS IN WEATHER-BEATEN MAJESTY AGAINST THE SKY.....



C CAN'T WE COME UP HEAH IN THE MAWNIN'?

NO!!!... NOW, FOR THE LAST TIME I'M TELLING YOU, EBONY... WE MUST FIND SOME TRACE OF MR. CLACH'S WILL BEFORE MORNING!



IF WE DON'T NIFTY NICK THE GAMBLER, WHO TOOK OVER THE MORTGAGE AFTER MR. CLACH DISAPPEARED 10 YEARS AGO, WILL FORECLOSE ... AND TURN THE OLD HOUSE INTO A NIGHT-CLUB AND GANG HIDEOUT!

YASSUH.. AH KNOWS YO' WANTS TH'STATE OLD FOLKS HOME TO GIT IT, BUT MIDNIGHT AIN'T NO PROPER TIME TO SEARCH FO' SECRIT PAPUHS IN A HAUNTED HOUSE!



YES.. COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS **WOULD** MAKE A SWELL OPENING SCENE FOR A HORROR MOVIE... WE SURE HAVE THE **REAL THING!** HA-HA-HA!

HA HA- AH COULD DIE LAUGHING !!



SUDDENLY... JUST BEFORE THE HOUSE TWO HEADLIGHTS RUSH OUT OF THE DARKNESS TO MEET THEM.....

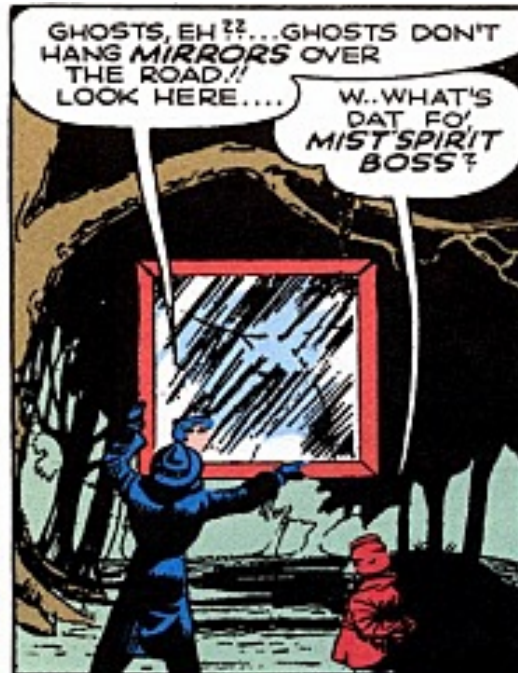


LOOK OUT!

DESPERATELY **THE SPIRIT** SWERVES TO AVOID A CRASH... RUNNING THE **AUTOPLANE** INTO A DITCH....













SUDDENLY A SLIDING PANEL OPENS...  
AND A POWERFUL FIGURE JUMPS  
UPON **THE SPIRIT'S EFFIGY...**



**THE SPIRIT LEAPS...**



**BUT THE ASSAILANT PROVES TOO STRONG, EVEN FOR THE SPIRIT..**



**SUDDENLY...**

**SAM!!**



**AND THE MAN HALTS ...HE RISES MECHANICALLY....**

**YOU MUST EXCUSE MY BROTHER..Y.YOU SEE, HE'S NOT..ER.. RIGHT!**



**WHY...!! STEVEN CLACH!..... I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD... WHY....**

**I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE THESE TEN YEARS ...WITH MY POOR BROTHER SAM!**



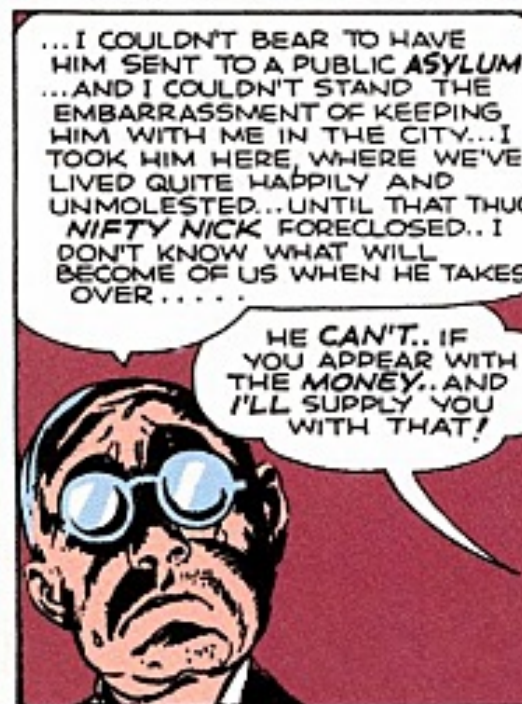
**TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY... I'M YOUR FRIEND...**

**SAM WAS A GREAT SCIENTIST... BUT HARD WORK AND STUDY SNAPPED HIS DELICATE BRAIN.. HE BECAME..... AS YOU SEE HIM NOW..**



**...I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE HIM SENT TO A PUBLIC ASYLUM ...AND I COULDN'T STAND THE EMBARRASSMENT OF KEEPING HIM WITH ME IN THE CITY...I TOOK HIM HERE, WHERE WE'VE LIVED QUITE HAPPILY AND UNMOLESTED...UNTIL THAT THUG NIFTY NICK FORECLOSED.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL BECOME OF US WHEN HE TAKES OVER .....**

**HE CAN'T.. IF YOU APPEAR WITH THE MONEY..AND I'LL SUPPLY YOU WITH THAT!**



**LOOK!! HERE COMES NIFTY AND SOME OF HIS MEN NOW!!**

**WE'LL GET RID OF THEM.... EBONY, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE A GHOST?**

**YASSUH... BUT AH'M GONNA BE A AWFUL SCARED GHOST!**









FRIGHTENED, NIFTY BACKS AWAY, PUMPING SHOTS INTO THE ON-COMING HULK.....



BUT SAM DOES NOT FLINCH.



YEEOWWW!! GHOSTS!



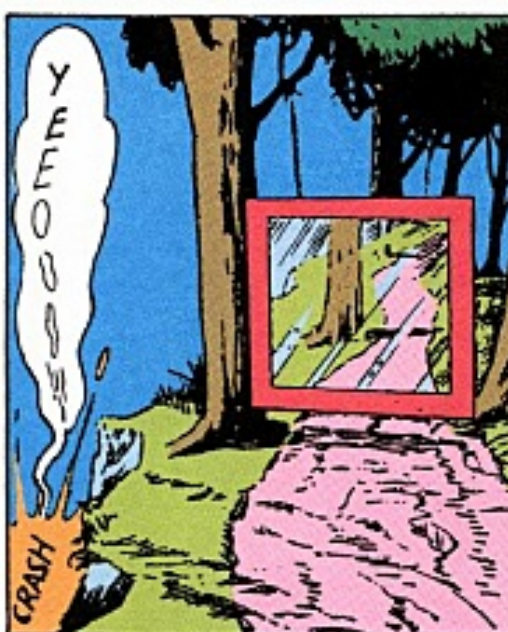
TERROR-STRICKEN, NIFTY RACES TO THE CAR...



LOOK OUT!! ANOTHER CAR'S COMIN' AT US!



HALF MAD WITH FRIGHT, HE SWERVES..HURTLING OVER THE CLIFF....



BACK IN THE OLD HOUSE...



AND AS THE DAWN BREAKS OVER WILDWOOD....

